



Docket No. 27735-13

PATENT

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Brandy Rogers

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: David Michael Edwards : Paper No.:
Serial No.: 10/663,270 : Group Art Unit: 3612
Filing Date: September 16, 2003 : Examiner: Pedder, Dennis H.
For: **Fastening System With Bearing Member**

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In the Notice of Allowability accompanying the Notice of Allowance dated April 5, 2006, a Statement of Reasons for Allowance was provided. The Examiner's Statement indicates that "[t]he reason for allowance of the claims presented 3/20/2006 is the inclusion of the limitation to the mounting structure between the securement structure and the underlying article in combination with the limitation to the portions provide compressive force to the underlying article." Applicant agrees that the prior art fails to teach or make obvious these claimed features, and it is noted that these features are recited in claim 1. However, independent claims 11 and 12 do not recite the same limitations as claim 1. Furthermore, Applicant wishes to clarify that the prior art also fails to teach or make obvious the claimed fastening systems as recited by independent claims 1 and 11 and those claims dependent therefrom, and/or the vehicle beds as recited by independent claim 12 and those claims dependent therefrom.

The Statement also indicates that "[w]hile the brace 32 of Doshi could, for the first limitation, be read as the mounting structure, use of this structure in addition as the underlying article is thereby prohibited. Further, while use of a washer underlying the bed object of Doshi could also be read as a mounting structure, use of a washer between the bed of Doshi and the brace 32 is deemed to be non-obvious as no rational positive effect is produced thereby." While Applicant agrees with the Examiner in this regard, it is noted that there are also additional reasons supporting patentability of claims 1-18.

These Comments are submitted in order to clarify the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Entry is therefore believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Please charge any fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 04-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric M. Robbins", is written over a horizontal line.

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